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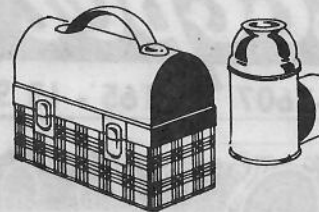
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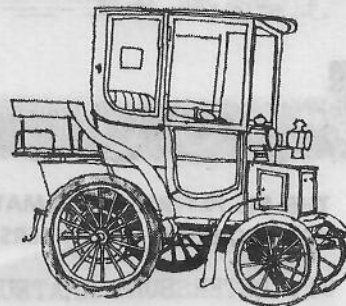
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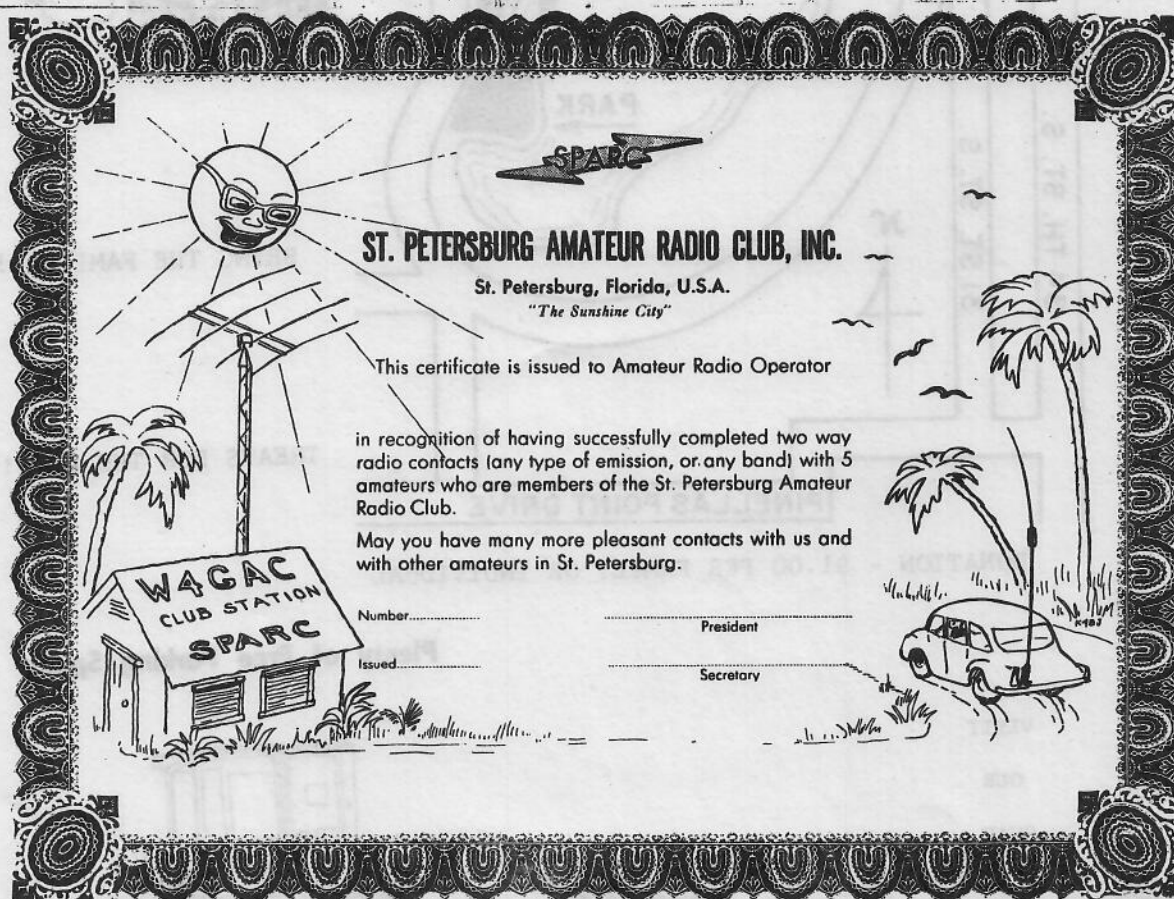
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S P A R C - G A P

==+==+==+==+==+==+==

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 2nd. 1976 AT 8:00 P.M.

RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS

818 - 4th Street North, St.Petersburg, Florida.

*** P R O G R A M ***

Our next meeting will be the OLD TIMERS NIGHT - There will be a display of old and antique receivers, transmitters and other old electronic equipment. There will also be a display of HOME-BREW equipment - and in contrast the latest piece of electronic equipment will be on display.

BOAT RIDE :::::: On Saturday April 24th arrangements have been made to charter the cruise boat the TOM SAWYER for a cruise in Tampa Bay - This includes a dinner dance the refreshments will be on board - B.Y.O.B.

Boat departs at 7:00 P.M. from the Municipal Pier near the Bounty. The tickets will be picked-up at the gate. Price \$6.75.

PLEASE CALL JOHN SMITH W4ACG for your reservation or more information PHONE 345-0464.

Bill Cox, WA4FNY - Had to be hospitalized after colliding with another car that had failed to stop at a STOP-SIGN. Bill suffered back and neck injury with dislocation of several vertebrae - Bill was placed at the St.Petersburg Osteopathic Hospital, under the care of Doctor Hazell- W4TAD . Bill remained in the hospital for a week due to the partial paralysis of the left side, he still finds a little numbness of his left hand.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - The Red Cross SPCC - has made the following announcement : GTE has modified out telephone service to enable staff and volunteers to receive incoming calls after duty hours or week-ends when the PBX is on night service. This capability is for internal use for staff and volunteers and is not intended for the general public.

The procedure works as follows: (The PBX is on night answer..)

1. Callers should be instructed to call you on 898-3115.
2. When call comes in on 898-3115, chimes will ring in downstairs and upstairs hallway
3. The person answering the call can do so from any telephone station in the building by picking up the receiver and dialing 8. This will access the in-coming call on 898-3115 only.

A special meeting of the SPARC was called to order by the President for the purpose of dispositioning the proposed by-laws changes. The president first read from the Articles of Incorporation, and read, in entirety, the by-laws plus proposed changes. K4KE - Dave Stockey moved that the By-Laws be accepted as read. WA4BGW Al seconded the motion. Discussion was received and vote called for; 33 votes for the amendments, zero (0) against, with a few abstaining.

Dont forget our HAM-FEST that is coming up, If you have any ideas to improve our H A M - F E S T please submit them N O W . We also want volunteers to help with prizes, tickets, and other little jobs that the committee will need.....

S P A R C - G A P

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

MINUTES: The march meeting of the SPARC was called to order by Pres. Bill Cox WA4FNY at 2006 EST. Treasurers Report was given by Frank Ryll -W4VIP. Minutes of the last meeting were read by Larry Miner - WA4CTM, voted and approved.

Our guest of Honor Naomi Spence was ill and unable to show for the meeting, so that program is held to a later date.

The President gave a general call for help and asked for a volunteer to write a column of timely news around the club for the Florida Skip magazine.

John Komp -WB4XTY gave a talk on access to the building and how to call into the W4GAC Radio Station under the new phone system.

Kim Cole, Station manager of W4GAC, said in order to operate the station, each person MUST be checked out at the station. Call Kim Cole WB4ARZ or Art Ashley W4EXS to arrange for this.

Woody Huddleston- K4SCL reported that WR4ALM, Club Repeater would be moved to a new site on March 7th. and would result in improved service to the club.

Jim Keyes K4FCW reported that he is still searching for the best insurance and price for the club members.

The club talked generally about upcoming plans for the HAMFEST in specifics.

Bill Cox talked in reference to the Florida Gulf Coast Club Council, of which SPARC is a member, and K4JBL Stan, WA4DIJ Alec, were appointed as delegates to the council with K4TH George Rae as stand in.

Paul WA4FYR gave a short talk about Festival of States coming up in April 6th 7th. and 10th.

Bill Cox, also reported that communications at the Orange Blossom Golf tournament was a great success. The officials and players all made it known how pleased they were, specially how quickly the scores were tabulated. The Wilson Sporting Goods Mfg Co. were so pleased that they donated several dozen golf balls to the club which will be part of the prizes at the up coming HAM-FEST.

Meeting was adjourned at 2100 Hours for refreshments prior to the special meeting that was called for the reading of the proposed by-laws changes.

RTTY NEWS : Last month was a short discussion of the RTTY receiving unit and an example of a workable unit built from a "Phase-locked loop".

This issue we would present a "sending unit" RTTY is sent through the air over radio, but encoded as on and off pulses. These pulses are more easily decoded if they are sensed as audio tones at the receiving end, and therefore are usually sent at the transmitting end by way of tones into the microphone jack.

These tones, or frequencies, are shifted in step with the RTTY pulses, and are referred to as freq-shifting-keying or FSK. The characteristics of a good FSK unit are: 1. Stable tones, 2. Clean breaking tones (no slipping or skewing) and 3. A clean transient free, sine wave tone.

On the "not so stringent" end of these specs is the easy, two-transistor FSK unit for use only on the VHF type frequencies where AM or FM is used. This is described on page 36 of QST for September 1969. These tones can be fed right into the rig's mic jack and will be decoded at the receiving end. At "the best" end of the scale, is the AK-1 FSK denegerator marketed in kit form by Hal devices in Illinois. These tones are so pure that they can be fed into the mic jack of an SSB rig to give FSK on the "low bands". One word of caution: A phasing type of transmitter should NOT be used for this.

de Larry Miner WA4CTM.

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HOWARD CLARKE W4KER

THE - SPARC - REPEATER - NEWS

First, the good news ! The repeater has been moved to its new site at 1301 34th. Street North. Our antenna is centered 210 feet above ground level on the Times Publishing Company tower. At this writing, after the first five days of operation at the new site, no intermodulation has been heard on the repeater! Perhaps we have laid Mrs Kalabash to rest. K4QCG and W4IRA are trying to collect for her flower fund. Equal of better news is that we are not QRMing our neighbors on the tower.

Our coverage area has been extended so that a good mobile unit out in the clear can expect to get in from as far north as Weeki Wachi, east to Lakeland and south to Venice. Good base stations have come in from Floral City, Crystal River, Orlando, West Palm Beach and Fort Myers. Hand-held portables with rubber ducky antennas are useable in Pinellas County everywhere south of Dunedin, unless you are in a badly shielded location.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Bill Hazell - W4TAD. When he heard that our Team Treasury was being badly depleted by cost of the new antenna, he contributed \$100 for this project. Thanks very much, BILL. And we are hoping your equipment overhaul will soon be completed so you can be back on the repeater with us.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the Anco Construction Corp'n. and the following hams who helped with the "antenna raising" and repeater moving: W4NVV Carrol Jasper, WB4CKC Craig Knight, K4KE Dave Stocky, K4SCL Woody Huddleston, K5IHH/4 Bob Browning. K4NAN Brian Felps, K4ISS George Bellows, WA4BGW Al Friend, WA4IBM Bill Dudley and Morton Stocky.

And, of course, we owe a big debt of gratitude to the Times Publishing Company, particularly Mr. Norman Dusseault, for authorizing us to install and operate the repeater, rent-free, at the new site.

WB4FYS is hard at work as Chairman of the Finance Committee to raise funds. Current project is to sell tickets for the Club Hamfest. Principal door prizes will be two IC-22 two-meter transceivers. Our Super-Salesman, K4FCW, is leading the pack again this year with the greatest number of tickets sales.

Be sure you come out to help on our big forth-coming public service project -- The Festival of States. We have commitments on April 6th and 10th.. Likely to be our biggest operation of the year. Contact WA4FYR, our Public Service Director, to see where you can help. In addition, we may need to help Tampa Bay Repeater Association with the Town and Country BIKE-a-THON on April 3rd. WB4SIZ is TBRA Public Service coordinator.

Next Team meeting will be March 30th. probably at Fire Headquarters as usual, although a change in meeting place is being considered. Keep tuned to the SPARC Repeater for the latest !!!!

73 de K4SCL/WR4ALM.

Reducing in-car interference to high-freq twoway radio equipment is a many-sided challenge. Aside from the primary problem areas there are many other lesser sources of noise which can be troublesome on occasion. It may be necessary, for example, to install a 1.0-mfd/200v. auto-generator type capacitor at the ammeter to prevent interference from feeding back to the battery and thence generally into the overall system. At the gasoline or oil-pressure guage, or the oil signal switch, a 0.1-mfd/100 V auto-suppressor or 0.5-mfd/200 V. generator-type capacitor, may be needed. One of the latter type capacitors may also be indicated for installation at the ignition switch. Beyond this, it may be necessary to install 1.0-mfd/200V. generator-type capacitors in connection with troublesome lights and accessories. Dont forget to bond the exhaust tail-pipe to the frame of the car.

OFFICIAL ARLT BULLETIN #577 - High claimed November Sweepstakes scores are as follows: CW WASIES 177,974, KP4BAJ 170,640, KP4PUZ 164,688, W7RM 163,392, KP4FL 161,764, W6RTT 160,728, K4G5U 160,454, WB4AEX 160,416, W6HX 160,308, WA7NIN 160,284; phone, W7RM 261,300, WAØCVS 246,900, W6HX 243,164, W5MYA 230,242, WA7NIN 229,950, WB5DTX 228,636, W6RR 227,072, WB4AEX 223,628, WA5RTG 222,300, KP4FL 218,562. The complete high claimed listing appears in the March issue of QST.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN #578 - The comment deadline in docket 20686, the FCC proposal to delete both the requirement for advance notice of portable operation and for portable/mobile identification, has been extended from February 27 to April 30. The reply comment date has been moved from March 8 to May 7. Please continue to spread the word of the docket and let ARLT Headquarters and your ARLT director know your views as soon as possible, whether you are in favor of or opposed to the concept. Further information of Docket 20686 will appear in the April issue of QST.

OFFICIAL ARLT BULLETIN #579 - Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UA, on February 25, introduced a bill, S-3033, requiring that measures to prevent radio frequency interference be incorporated in the manufacture of consumer electronics products. The new bill, similar to the Vanik Bill, HR-7052, page 76, September 1975 QST, has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications, which is headed by Senator John O. Pastore of Rhode Island.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY: The microcomputer society of Florida held its first of

two meetings in Tampa on February 28th, and March 6th. State of objectives was drawn, proposed and adopted. Meetings will be held on the first Saturday at 2:00 P.M. and the third Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. of each month. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 17th, at 7:00 P.M. at Marsh Data Systems, 5405 B Southern Comfort Blvd, Tampa. For further information call 343-2973 Larry Miner WA4CTM.

Still need volunteers for FIELD DAY ACTIVITY June 26th and 27th. Only one volunteer so far. Call 343-2973 Larry WA4CTM as I am keeping a list to help get people together on this activity. Last year this activity was a great success and a lot of fun was had by all.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES, THEY ARE DUE. Drop a note to Sparc, P.O. Box 4026 and include your check.

OFFICIAL ARLT BULLETIN #580 - The FCC is amending its rules so as to make possible telegraph exams while test understanding of the messages over a five minute period rather than letter by letter copy for a single minute. To prepare the way, the words, "Free from omission or other error for at least one minute," have been deleted from section 97.29 C. Initially, only a few FCC offices will be testing the new procedure; the rest will continue with the traditional style code exam. Headquarters will soon have sample tests for volunteer examiners. Other minor regulations changes have been to delete references to the drawing of diagrams in section 97.29 D and to delete references to intracompany coverage, in the definition of repeaters at 97.3 I, reflecting earlier changes which permitted linking of repeaters.

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Many Amateur publications are sponsored by individual companies or Electronic companies, Many more are sponsored by the membership in the form of Advertising. Publication costs have become so impossible in the last few years that many of the largest companies have suspended publications. In over 15 years of Amateur Radio research I have found where the club paper stopped publication the club began to fade and in a lot of cases went clear out of existence. It is obvious why this would be so, first they lose their identity that was marked by that constant publication, second, we all need a contact in writing to let us know we are a membership, third, it is not fair to the member who is a dues payer helping to support the club but for one reason or another cant enjoy the attendance of the meetings. With a membership pushing 200 this last year, note attendance of the meetings. There are many other reasons but I am sure that each and every one understands them as well as I do without enlarging on them.

Throughout the United States most successful clubs have raised their dues in most instances more than double. SPARC HAS NOT, but we need advertising to keep our publication going. CAN WE ASK FOR YOUR COOPERATION? Sell one Ad-Fill the advertising space and we will be okay.

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